

As a member of the Amateur Radio Service (callsign KB1FLR) I oppose the removal of Element 1 testing for the HF amateur bands. The Amateur Service is considered the last line of communication as well as the first line of response in disaster and national security emergencies. What differentiates us from other services is our ability to communicate using a variety of methods. Of these methods, Morse code has proven optimal in it's ability to get messages through under the poorest conditions using minimal bandwidth, power and equipment. Loss of operators with a knowledge of Morse would adversely affect our ability to provide the service the United States and the world expect of us.